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The wayside of life

Laura Smith Ellsworth. William B.
Connolly. Cairns Collection of American Women Writers

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William B. Cairns Collection
Of
American Women Writers
1650-1920

William B. Cairns
Professor of English
University of Wisconsin-Madison

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The girls book

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You and I are little units
Parts of One Stupendous Plan
That will educate & purify
The sluggish soul of Man
Laura Smith Ellsworth

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THE
WAYSIDE OF LIFE

Being a Collection of Poems, Essays
and Paragraphs Written by
the Spirit-Controls of

LAURA SMITH ELLSWORTH

Introduction by W. B. CONNOLLY

New York
PRIVATELY PRINTED
1907

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INTRODUCTION

In this analytical age in which we live there is a constantly growing desire in the minds of progressive people to know the why and wherefore of all things, many of which have in past years gone on unexplained. This inherent desire "to know" is but natural to all logical thinkers, and is, no doubt, one of the most important factors in the advancement of human intelligence, for it acts as a constant spur to drive men and women on into deeper thought and more intricate experimentation, with the hope of accurately determining the exact causes which underlie all known phenomena.

At the present time there is a keen interest among thousands of people in both Europe and America and other countries regarding the subject of Spiritualism. Many of the scientific men of our time laugh at the claim of spirit return, while other scientific men of high standing believe that spirit return is a fact in nature. Many strictly orthodox clergymen of the old school deny its possibility, while on the other hand, many of the more progressive element of the clergy admit its possibility and its probability.

It is an unwise act to condemn or ridicule any

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subject with which we are unfamiliar, and because one out of ten, or nine out of ten, as the case may be, so-called mediums are fraudulent—it is no sign or reason that all are deceptive. We should ever bear in mind that there would be no bogus bank-notes in circulation if there had never been a genuine.

"The Wayside of Life" is the result of what has been written supposedly by disembodied spirits through the instrumentality of a medium whose honesty and integrity are beyond question. For over twenty years the medium, Mrs. Laura Smith Ellsworth, has been constantly before the public as a spiritual medium and inspirational lecturer in Saratoga Springs and other Eastern New York towns.

Every poem, essay and paragraph in this volume was written while the medium was under spirit "control"; that is, she was totally unconscious of what was being written or spoken (the controlling spirit frequently talked to other members of the family), and when she regained normal consciousness, she had not the slightest recollection of what had transpired in the intervening time.

The volume was begun one winter's afternoon, when, without warning or any foreknowledge whatever, the medium was "controlled," and wrote the following in a large and very coarse handwriting, entirely foreign to her own:

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"Many thoughts, pure and simple, through this hand will I write, and unto many hearts bring gladness, through the thoughts I shall advance."

Later on the same evening she was again "controlled," and wrote:

"From the heights will I come, and speak unto thee from the higher spheres of glory and beauty. Ye will hear my voice through the world; all my power shall be felt; I am he whom thou thinkest; yea, and more shall I say unto you."

The volume has been written during spare moments of a very busy life and has taken about six months' time. The handwriting varies greatly in the different writings, and the "controlling" spirits have said that as many as twelve separate and distinct personalities have contributed. Nearly all gave their names, but requested the work published anonymously.

One evening, after the writings had ceased, the medium was again "controlled," and wrote the following:

"To thee I give my benediction as I would give it to the Great Divine in All. I send thee the soulful love which the sunshine gives to the pansies; as the father feeds his children; as the mother gives to the babe at the breast; as the sunshine

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gives strength and power to the earth; so to thee do I this night give my strength and love to you to go on and do a work in the earth plane, whereby all may be helped and strengthened by thy words and deeds."

The critical reader will find in a few places some thoughts which are very similar to others that have already been expressed in days gone by; but they have been purposely included with all the rest in order that the reader might judge of the work as a whole and not in part.

In passing it may be interesting to know that the medium in question has intelligently conversed in the German, Italian and Indian languages while under "control," although she has no knowledge of these languages when in the normal state.

The great variation in the personality of the writings, the speaking of foreign languages while in the "control" condition, and numberless other "tests" of equal importance, point toward the truth of spirit return. I do not say it is a scientific fact—I do not know; but if this volume serves to throw additional light on life's pathway, its mission will have been fulfilled.

WM. B. CONNOLLY.

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'Tis Freedom's gospel by which we swear,
Freedom to seek truth everywhere,
Unmindful of sect or name:
This is the freedom we proclaim.

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To ALL souls who are dissatisfied with things and conditions as they find them, and are ever struggling for nobler and better things, we dedicate this book.

THE SPIRIT AUTHORS.

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GOD'S GREATEST BUILDINGS

GOD

God is the spirit of good,
The life which permeates all;
The substance in which we live.
All good is God, all God is good.

INSPIRATION

Inspiration is the God Wave breathing into our beings the pure thoughts which permeate all space, fill all souls with love, and breathe into existence truth, power and eternal happiness.

GOD'S GREATEST TEMPLES

God's greatest buildings are the men and women who have used their intellectual powers to the greatest advantage in helping to unfold real truths as they see them.

PRAYER

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire, expressed or unuttered. It is the hidden soul offering a supplication of pure trust to an Invisible Force.

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AN ANGEL PRAYER

BREATHE upon us, O Spirit of Love, the blessing of peace and understanding. Open our eyes that we may see the light! Open our ears that we may hear the truth! Open our hearts that in them may dwell the spirit of all that is sweet and good and true!

We hear the cry of anguish—the wail of despair that comes up from a wounded, tired, and sin-sick world; and we would that the peace of the spirit would be given out, and like a sweet wind from Heaven, be wafted over the world until all are happier and better, filled with divine love.

May the efforts of all others who are working in the direction of peace and good be blessed. May they feel the oneness with all spiritual workers everywhere; and may we all feel the pure soul of love. God guide us ever.

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DEATH SEVERS NO LINK

THERE IS NO DEATH

LIFE, past, present and future, constitutes one chain. Death severs no conscious link. Our consciousness, our memories, and our loves go with us to this better land. Unseen intelligences, once mortal and bound to you by the tender cords of sympathy, still walk in your midst, stand by your sides and listen to your echoing voices, and what spiritually benefited us on earth, benefits us still.

THAT which thou wouldst that man should give to thee, give to them that they may be the divine dispersers of thy good deeds in the harvest of thy soul's reaping.

PLANT a tree or dig a well in the desert of life. Some weary traveler will sit beneath the shade of the tree, or drink the waters of the well, and thou shalt be a blessed benefactor among men.

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SOUL GROWTH

"TELL me—what changes does Death bring?"
Asked an earth child of a spirit one day.
The spirit made answer in voice good and strong—
"I'll answer you gladly without delay:

"If your life is as pure as the drifting snow,
When you pass from the earthly clay,
You still will be pure in your spirit home,
For your goodness will live alway.

"And you can't make a saint of a sinner—
Not by a word or a prayer;
They have to work out their redemption
Before they are happy there.

"If you have lived for yourself alone,
Never thinking of others' good;
If you've been impure in earthly life,
And harmed every one you could—

"You will die as you lived, with the same desires
When you enter this heavenly plane;
And see where you made the mistakes in life,
And you're sure to start over again.

"For life is a chain of endless desires—
For the good and the bad as well;
And when you come into your spirit home,
YOU BRING EITHER YOUR HEAVEN OR HELL.

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"But those who have come here and found out the
law
Which Nature has set for us all,
They will hold out their hands and help you to
rise
To a plane where you never can fall."

SUNLIGHT AND SHADOWS

THE shadows in every man's life make the sunshine more welcome. The tears are the dewdrops on the mountains of possibility, and the smiles are like the perfume to the sick and weary soul. Therefore send forth the sunlight; do not be ashamed of the tears, and always smile when some heart is sad.

You never know what good a warm handclasp, a kind look, or a word may be to the despondent one. There is sunshine enough for all; and if you can be instrumental in brushing away the cobwebs from some poor disheartened sister's or brother's eyes, so they may discern the beautiful—which is their own God-given inheritance—you will have moved a step nearer to the Perfect Life, and your soul will vibrate with a something which only a few men have known.

Work on, never falter, there is work to be done;
Clear the path of all ignorance under the sun!
Teach earth children to know the Divine is their
own—
An inheritance given, for which none need atone.

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Teach all to reach out for progression's old ship:
Get aboard, spread contentment and peace on your trip;
And tell to all nations—shout it loud and proclaim—
That knowledge is power and will drown ignorance's flame.

THE TRUTH

'Tis as true as the great universal law:
What ye sow ye also shall reap;
For the loom of life weaves on and on,
Whether you wake or sleep.

It is shown in the sowings of your race,
With its deadly poisonous sting,
That he who makes his brother weep,
Grief to himself shall bring.

If you laugh at some poor victim's cries,
And harden your heart at the sound,
Surely a Nemesis' dread shall rise,
Out of a void profound.

Whoever shall sow in selfishness and hate,
Is only sowing for years that wait;
For the slow, relentless Wheel of Fate
Is ever turning 'round.

So give to your brother a loving thought,
And a helping hand in life's fray,
And yours shall be the glory
In some great future day.

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IMMORTALITY

Your life will be bright to the finish,
When you've proven that you are true;
For the standard of right is infinite,
And 'twill all return to you.

THE IMMORTALITY OF THE SOUL

THE soul is immortal because it possesses universal, necessary, and absolute ideas which transcend all emotional conditions and bespeak an origin unmeasurable above the body. No modifications of matter, however refined, however elaborated, can give the absolute, the necessary, the Eternal.

The soul has an independent power of self motion, self activity, self determination. Now that which cannot move itself, but derives its motion from something else, may cease to move and at last perish. But that which is self moved never ceases to live and is always active. That which is the cause of motion cannot be extinguished by the change called death.

THROUGHOUT the whole world,
The great God in all is working
To bring about His will,
As the sun shines on the rich and poor,
All treading through His mill.

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SET FOR ME A CHAIR

I do not care for palaces in which to live and die,
I'm willing to wait for my mansion in th' ethereal sky;
I do not want a parson to eulogize my bier,
I'd rather have kind treatment while on my journey here.

I do not want a marble grand to mark my resting place,
Cremation's good enough for me; throw th' ashes into space.

I do not want some one who says he loves me "Oh! so true,"
To bring sweet flowers—when I lay cold—all dripping with the dew;

I want them while I lie and wait for th' angel friends to come;
I want to smell their sweet perfume; they'll help to send me on.

I do not want my friends to cry because they think I'm dead;
Instead I want a party grand, a royal feast that's spread
For all my friends who loved me; and I'll return and wait
Until I'm seated at the head; a guest I'll be in state.

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TRUTHS DIVINELY PURE

You may not see my earthly form, but I shall sure
be there:
In spirit and in love I'll come, so set for me a
chair.
I'll bring you blessings from a land where love
and beauty grand
Will walk beside you in your home, and I will
hold your hand,
And teach you truths divinely pure; teachings
that shall fore'er endure,
Until th' enlightened have full sway—a truth that
stands for aye and aye.
So let me live and let me go, a natural product of
life's woe,
Until my soul is lost in love in that bright Spirit
Home above.

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FAILURES

No MAN deserves to be crowned with honor whose life has been a failure; he who lives to eat and accumulate money only, is a failure. The world is no better because he has lived in it; he never wiped a tear from a sad face; never kindled a fire on a frozen hearth. His friends are few; his life barren and cold; as he lives so shall he die; no tears, no regrets—simply he has passed on. No one inquires who he is; no one cares. Oh, God! teach us to do good, and to be good, and to help others so that they may plant a flower on our grave and stop at least long enough to read the inscription carved on our monuments.

A MEDITATION

DRAW near us this morning, O Spirit of Divine Love. Strengthen us according to the need of the day. Give us true thoughts and a right understanding of Thee and Thy ways, for in all things we know Thy great Spirit will give strength and endurance. Guide us in all our actions, and we will lift our voices to Thee in thanksgiving.

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ETERNAL INVESTMENTS

MANHOOD

THE finest type of manhood is never overwhelmed or entirely dismayed, no matter what comes. A man of this type may see his property swept away from him, his hopes blasted, his ambitions thwarted, and his plans demolished, but his spirit remains undaunted; his courage, his trust, his self-confidence are undiminished. His success is beyond the reach of mere accident. The foundation of his success is laid on the rocks of eternal truth, of justice, of probity, of right thinking and square dealing. No floods, no devastations, can reach him. They do not touch the real man, for his investments are in himself. It is only the more shallow-minded men, without reserve of character, without other resources than money or property, that go down in financial failure. The man who has learned to live in himself and not in his property, who puts not his trust in riches but in principle, does not part with his greatest possession when he loses his money.

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THE TWIN MURDERERS

In past ages Ignorance and Superstition have been the twin murderers that have seized the daggers of hatred and persecution to assassinate the soul of every thinker and reformer who had the courage of his convictions and dared to speak out and tell what he thought to be the truth.

But a new era has dawned when thinking men and women are coming to the front, and irrespective of what others may say or think, have the courage to tell to the world their ideas, and what has been revealed to them through their own divine intellect, or through some source of spirit power.

If you have the desire, the means, and the opportunity, then it is your own fault if you still continue to go down the hill of ignorance, while on the other hand the hill of knowledge is waiting for you to climb to its highest point and there proclaim the new thoughts revealed to you.

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AS IT REALLY IS

TRUE religion is needed in every heart. But the only power in the church that is worthy of the name is Spiritual Power—the power that comes of being Right. The church has waxed; religion in the church has waned. Quantity has been attained, but quality lost. Furthermore, what is the church doing to better the quality? Let me tell you—just little or nothing! On the contrary, the church puts the stamp of her approval on such religious acrobatics and calls it Christianity. She too often shares in the profits of the sinner, and then demands that the pulpit keep "mum" about the sin.

She muzzles the preachers and then puts herself in bondage to ungodly men of wealth, and plays into their hands the tremendous power of ecclesiastical machinery. Thus the functionaries that were created to conserve the purity of the church are turned over to those who use them for the opposite effect.

So the church is but a painted ship upon a painted ocean, freighted with no cargo and bound for no port.

Spiritual power is an impossibility in the church that has set its heart upon that worldly equipage and favor, in order to obtain which, it must grovel before wrong, clad in rich livery, and kiss the feet of the golden calf.

Such religion is not worth ten cents on the dol-

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lar. What is the effect? Read your answer in the empty pews of the average church. The people are not all fools. They do not want chaff, they want pure grain and full measure—and something for their money.

FREE THOUGHT

Free thought has been:

The soother of sorrows, destroyer of strife,
The soul's best physician, relieving all pain;
It curses no one who has doubts of his creed,
It hunts up no martyrs to burn or to bleed.
It tells of no devil with tortures and chains,
No hell of unending and horrible pains.
It seeks not to bless men by force or by fear,
But draws them by love to a God ever near.
This world it makes happy, then, high beyond this,
It points to another, all sunny with bliss.
Bright haven of rest! How fair are thy skies!
Thou home of the Good! Thou school of the Wise!

SEARCH FOR LIGHT

It is better, in my opinion, in searching for truth, to go astray and wander for a while in the labyrinths of obscure doctrines than to stand ever still tied to your infantile faiths. Your search for truth will sooner or later lead you into the broad roads of divine wisdom, and every one of the

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narrow beliefs that you have passed through has been a benefit. Search diligently for light, and by and by your soul will be illuminated with the light of wisdom and reason; for the mind is a mighty storehouse, incomparably beyond any external source of knowledge. If you will allow it to think for itself, it will develop the mighty forces of life.

THE WORLD MOVES ON

In this age of progress it is not well to butt your head against the wall of evolution; for great scientific minds are struggling to find new methods whereby the world may become enlightened, and these are fast being recognized by mankind. Nearly every person has some dear one who has passed over the road that leads to the life beyond, and when they return they are weighed down with the words of knowledge and wisdom, which they are scattering over God's great garden. So the narrow minds will have to become busy and go to school in God's great schoolhouse, where all may learn from those who have seen and understand the wonderful laws of life here and hereafter.

THE UNANSWERED

Into the great expanse of Nature, filled with numberless atoms which go to make up the wonderful life forces and increase the value of power and motion, the great mind tries to grasp the unseen law which governs all. But man never has

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been able to solve the great problem of why every atom fills its own little niche; why the why and wherefore is always rightly placed; and neither could they fully understand the universal method of everything being in its proper place until they have tried to change its course and failed effectually every time.

So we will move with this great Whole, being one of the little particles which is essential to help it along. When our usefulness is finished we will pass on to give place to a new mind, perhaps filled with more progressive thoughts, and so the world will be educated; everything in its right place.

And no matter if man had never been created, the same stars would shine; the old ocean would dash upon the beach; the great electrical forces illuminate the heavens, and the etheric stresses build life energies. All would go on; Nature is an endless chain of progress, never resting, always active—a lesson of value to those who stop to think it out.

GIVE US THE NEW

Let the old die out. We do not need them and their baby reforms. It is the new man and the new woman, who have been educated by the higher forces to be a help and a benediction to mankind, that are needed.

A natural reformer is one who will act because it is Right to do right; not because it pleases some one else to have him do so.

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FEAR IS IGNORANCE

WHAT IS FEAR?

FEAR is the first tyrant you must get rid of. Fear represents the material out of which is made every link in the chain which holds you down in life. Mistrust, hatred, jealousy—these things spring from fear, and all disaster is caused from one of these false emotions. Fear is ignorance. It can be conquered only by those who dare. Freedom of thought precedes every manifestation of strength, but many are still in the chains of fear. Freedom is harmony, and when you enter the higher plane of consciousness, this law will be the foundation for all to behold and understand. For it will bring to all health, prosperity and peace.

FEAR is the definition of Failure.
Courage is the definition of Strength.
Strength is the definition of Success.
Fear and you will fail.
Courage and you can move earths.
Strength and you can subdue nations.
Fear begets failure.

Think you are weak and your strength will fade away.

Think you are strong and there will be no obstacle that you cannot surmount.

Strength, Courage, Valor, Success, all are thine inheritance.

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WILL YOU TELL ME?

Will you tell me, my ministering angels,
How best to make use of this day,
That it leave on my heart, or some other,
An impress for good that will stay?

Will you show me how best to examine
My own faulty life by your light,
And help me, by conquering selfhood,
To be able to counsel aright?

So make known, if you can, by your power,
Some way, by a word, or a song,
To lift up some poor erring mortal,
And help him to keep from the wrong.

Show me some way I may open
The soul's windows, so there may be
A bright ray of sunlight in every heart,
And the bright side of life all may see.

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CONTENTMENT

CONTENTMENT is not an outward growth. Its roots spring from the very depths of the soul and are nourished by rain as well as by sunshine, by sorrow as well as by joy. When once one has resolved within himself to take life as it is, and make the best of it, then one may, even in tribulation, take comfort. The delights of life, like pleasant weather, are scattered through the year, all along your way, and unless one enjoys them as soon as they come, the opportunity, once passed, never returns.

Do not get drenched in a pouring rain for the sake of saving your umbrella for some possible future storm. Do not live in the future, but in the present. You live in poverty that you may die in wealth; for what? You complain of the clouds and storm, but do you rejoice in the clear sky and sunshine?

Be therefore glad! let not future things disturb thee, for thou shalt come to them. Sleep! for the loom of life never stops, and the pattern which is being woven when the sun goes down, is weaving when it comes up to-morrow.

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THE BEAUTIFUL FLOWER, LOVE

THE most beautiful flower that blossoms in Heaven or earth has its name written on the forehead of all who wear it, and its name is Love. Love is the first divine principle which governs and rules the world. It is the purest gem that a mother wears. It is the father's beacon-light when he comes home. It is the child's watch-word. It is the friend's passport. It is the essence of all that is good and all that is Godlike; all that is kind; all that you live for; all that we enjoy in other climes. Love is the balance-wheel of life. It is the mainspring of our hopes, aspirations and desires. So let us seek its shelter, its protection, and be true.

FILL the cup of thy being, O my friend, with the sweet waters of Eternal Truth, and glorify thyself by quenching the thirst of all who come to thee seeking aid.

IF you wish to have a beautiful character and be beautiful in the eyes of the world, sow seeds of kindness wherever you go. Smile and say a sweet good-morning, and your face will beam with a beauty that no artist can paint.

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DEVELOP THE OTHER SENSE

ALL THINGS ESSENTIAL

If you were wise you would believe in all religions as essential factors in this world's progress. In all men, good and bad, ignorant and learned, weak and strong, you would recognize the night as well as the day as essentials. Who are your brothers? Who are your sisters? All men and all women; the birds, the flowers, the streams, the winds that blow, all are necessary; without them you could not live in the material body. The earth sends out its magnetic influence and the air vibrates like eolian harps with the universal love of the spirits who inhabit the other room. Beautiful thought; one so near the other that if the other sense were developed, we could reach out and clasp the hand of our loved one.

All things are essential to life. Let none say anything is lost.

There are numberless things you may do at trifling cost which would sweeten the atmosphere in which you live, and you could so throw out an aura of light and love that many poor hungry souls would find shelter beneath your wings. Be glad to be good and to do good, because a life of effort for man has its remembrance in Heaven.

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ATTUNE WITH THE SOUL!

Art thou confused? Can your baffled eyes penetrate no farther? Then how is the true Seer to be appreciated?

The vast ocean of materials in ceaseless motion and activity are ever bringing their different influences to bear on your cloudy minds. And all are simply atoms of the Great Whole making up one of these active bodies which emanates thought force. The thought finds no resting place. It feels the material form and is conscious of its habitation. It meditates definitely *only* upon objects that are suitable for its comprehension and associations. It searches throughout the chambers of the Heaven of Heavens and roams through the labyrinths that are continually opening up their rooms for the mind's inspection; then it returns from its journeyings and asks when was the beginning and when will be the end. So let me say to thee:

You look through a glass that is never quite clear,
  In your world of thought in hopes of some light;
But your vision is cloudy, you cannot see far,
  And you stop overwhelmed, for your day is as night.
If you could know that animated Nature
  Was a harp set in a frame of pure gold,
That trembled into thought each tone of creation—
  It's the God in All—attune with the soul!

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THE UNTHINKABLE

I SAID I would write about the unthinkable; what does it mean? This: The present intellectual development is beyond your grasp. Once it was unthinkable that solid bodies could pass through solid bodies without leaving a hole. It may be unthinkable to the majority of scientists now, but facts have multiplied under scientific scrutiny until many are convinced that it is not only thinkable, but demonstrable.

"There never was a time when matter did not exist" may look plausible to your mental or intellectual grasp, but is it axiomatic? Can you predict a syllogism on it as you can upon a mathematical axiom? Can you know that "there never was a time" when intelligence did not exist and direct force in its constructive energy? Such an assertion concedes that the operations of constructive energy never began. If not, then why the continuous play of this constructive energy in accordance with eternal principles and order of action and reaction always tending in the same direction which "never began," and therefore needed no intelligence to begin it? And this order involving every process of evolution, can actively satisfy every demand for which a God is held responsible.

In other words, if the cosmic processes now operative in which polarity and co-relation with all the tendencies of attraction and repulsion, and

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the molecular rhythm and chemistry of life to intelligent uses, what reason is there to think that any other cause is or ever was necessary to the economy of Nature?

PEOPLE'S IDOLS

"Gods" are men's creations. Infinite intelligence is abstruse. Let us deal only with things knowable. Substitute "Divine" for "Infinite" intelligence. What do we know or understand of the Infinite? I can conceive of no intelligence which was not developed through the process of Nature. The dead and decaying theologies are repulsive to those who are quickened by the advanced thought, and are reaching after higher truths. Leave the question of new titles and names of the Supreme Power to those who have not outgrown the need of old theologies.

Why should you bow at any shrine? You are your own individual beings owning yourselves, as that is your inheritance. If you shed light over all the dark places on your pathway, and let every man live out his best thoughts and endeavors, then you shall have put one diamond in your crown for the eternal round-up.

Our greatest efforts are often blocked by ignorance and superstition.

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SIN AND THE SINNER

TRY TO UNDERSTAND

THERE is so much good that you all could do,
If you only knew where to begin.
You could learn to forgive the sinner,
And forget about the sin.

You could soon teach your heart to be tender
Toward the poor erring ones on life's way,
And by putting your arms about them,
Show them life is worth living to-day.

There are so many flowers in life's garden,
That you could help if you would;
But they perish and die in your pathway,
Because they are not understood.

Too often you censure and kill them
By some unkind word you have said,
When a kind, loving word or a tender caress,
Might have made them grow stronger instead.

And into God's beautiful Garden,
Transplanted some day you may find,
This flower you crushed by some thoughtless word,
And you'll wish you had been more kind.

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DO SOMETHING

SEEK ye first the kingdom of God
By doing something, aye, something good;
And all things shall be added to you,
Bringing forth the soul so true.
Test it in your business, all ye learnèd men,
By being just and honest, and doing all the good
you can.
Not a so-called Christian, who yearns for honors
great,
But one of Love's own Christians,
Who works for God and state.
Is there honesty or justice
In slandering your neighbor?
Is a man a Christian in his heart,
Who stands 'twixt capital and labor?
Is it right for one to live on husks,
While others live on wheat?
Is it just the thing for some to say:
"You take the bone, I want the meat"?
Is this a building of the good,
That God has given free?
Should *one* possess the entire earth,
Which belongs equally to you and me?
Arise, ye sleepers, and go forth,
And do your duty well;
Break down this selfish tyranny—
Build up progression's spell.
Let your minds be ever active,
And bring about some thought,

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Which will sink deep into many hearts,
And bring best efforts out;
And then we sure will have the right
To say the Kingdom bright
Of Heaven is within us.
There will be no tyrant's might—
But Love and Harmony shall be
A watchword for Equality.
And no man's land shall be so grand,
But what he'll take his neighbor's hand,
And say: "Let's work in unison."
Then God will say our work's well done.

THE DIFFERENCE

RICH men meet in the bank or in the club-house or parlor. Workingmen meet on the streets to confer together. All the organized forces are against them. Capital has the army and navy, the legislative, executive and judicial departments to fulfil its bidding.

When the rich combine it is for an "exchange of ideas." When the poor combine it is "conspiracy." If they act in concert and really do something, it is a "mob." If they dare to defend themselves, it is called "treason."

FREEDOM is not the right to do as you please, but the liberty to do as you ought to.

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WHAT IS THE CREATOR?

THE Creator has ceased to be a sort of an ecclesiastical mechanic outside of the world and of man. Evolution is everywhere taking its place. Still, the most lasting basis of belief in a God is to be found in the human spirit itself.

The revolt of science against religion and its assumptions is but the revolt of common sense and common humanity. Science does not revolt against religion, but against the ecclesiastical terrorism which is taught by the clergy and covered with orthodoxical robes.

The natural laws which govern all things cannot be nullified; they are facts without figures; they show for themselves the great GOD in all. Not in one, but in every flower that grows; every song that we hear; every laugh of the child; every cloud in the sky; every ripple of the brook as it flows on to old ocean; each bearing out the expression of a God in all. Each teaching its own lesson of a true development of some inner life which belongs to the grand universal evolution of man.

The real essential *you* is within you, and as you learn this fact you feel a desire to live with one in the inner man. The nobler in all respects is all drawn out of the physical and the actual visible world, and is in communion with and in perpetual life with GOD.

You take refuge in it from the rude happenings of the outer life. The flesh is an outward mask

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to hide behind. What you cannot see is far more valuable than what you can see.

No man is so poor as he who has only one coating to his nature.

THE ONLY GRAVE YOU'LL EVER KNOW

THE only grave we know is an unmarked one away over on the hillside of memory, where lies buried many a fond hope, and many a sweet dream of bygone years and days. The place where confidence was withered by the chilling blasts of cold neglect and indifference lies among the faded flowers; and yet, from this grave there must be a resurrection, for in this Higher Life all broken threads are taken up, and the messengers of thoughts will come home at last. So strive for pure thoughts and lofty aspirations, for thought once breathed upon the air will vibrate to eternity. Let your spiritual growth exceed your years, that you may sooner reach that perfect day.

"How CAN you help others to be better?" You can help them by being good yourself, and bending your head and letting all the little trifles pass over you. Do not see them; do not notice them; do not hear the unkind words; only listen to the good ones. Seek for true love alone. True love is Godism.

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INFINITE LOVE

THERE's something in Nature we cannot explain;
There's something in Nature that's kindred to flame;
There's something in Nature that never can fall,
There's something in Nature belongs to us all.
It is called Infinite Love.

Its power is infinite all will confess,
It reaches our hearts and our souls—nothing less;
It holds us in chains that no mortal can sever,
It yields to no death, but lives on forever,
This Infinite Love.

With love at the helm there must come a time,
When all shall be free, in some far-away clime;
No sorrow or poverty; all shall be free
To have and to hold their allotment, you see,
All through Infinite Love.

Through pathways of pain your feet often press,
Still on to your loved ones, nevertheless,
Your soul will reach out in quiet and peace,
And you'll dwell with them there where sorrow shall cease.
Yes, in Infinite Love.

TEAR-DROPS are like balm to the weary heart. Sunlight and smiles go arm in arm.

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AMBITION

THE world is one endless opportunity. Nothing stands between man and his ambition but himself. The resources of Nature are revealed to the individual only as he discovers the resources within himself. Ambition lies in the individual and not in circumstance.

Man builds his environments about him out of his own substance, just as the spider spins his web or as the nautilus finds its shell of pearl. The limitations and restraints that the individual believes to be imposed upon him from without by the government or by society are in reality but the limitations of ambition within himself, which he has not overcome.

It is impossible for man to be enslaved by any other than himself. Every man, woman and child has some ambition upon which they build their hope for the future. It marks the awakening of man. From the machine which the tendency of our modern progress has gone to produce there comes the promise of man.

Instead of despondency and gloom, there is cause for the loftiest cheer. Why? Look at the word "Ambition," and read your answer. No hardship, no suffering, no calamity, are of great moment to the ambitious. They have their own destinies to live out, and unto all men has been given their store of ambition according to their brain power to use it. Man is the creator of his

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own destiny. What he is—he has made himself. The conditions that environ him are of his own creation.

Things move according to law—not by luck. If your lives are barren—it is you who make them so. Therefore, stimulate ambition and it will grow and the world will become better. Men will be wiser. There will be something to live for. There will be no greed. Ambition will be the password which will unlock the doors of progression, and the world will understand that there is no place on earth for a man who deems his work done—no place for any who have buried their ambition.

FUTURE CITIES

THE future cities will be built on the hills,
And the grind of humanity now in the mills,
Will breathe God's own sunlight and bask in its rays;
It will be their salvation, and last—yes, for aye.

No more weary faces, for God gave it free,
The power that shall benefit—yes, you and me;
And all of the poor, all of the oppressed,
May come to this fountain and there will find rest.

But you ask: what will bring about such a change?
Just look in the faces of the youths—now estrange
From the old fogy ideas; from monopolies' greed;
I think in their actions you can read the new creed.

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EVOLUTION

Equal rights for all; let old ideas decay—
You will build the new cities which shall last alway;
They'll be the home of the poor as well as the rich,
And governed so well none will fall in the ditch.

New schools, new religions, new thoughts, new prayers,
To do to your neighbor with a thought of pure care
The thing that you would to you should be done,
And then all will be harmony under the sun.

New thoughts to the little minds now growing free;
Let them be liberal and teach all to see
The need of all social rights put in their way.
Make good use of your knowledge, begin right away.

Some minds need your help; teach evolution so grand;
Then free thought and power shall walk hand in hand,
And the cities you build will be monuments tall,
To show to the world you have cast in your all.

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LOOK FOR THE HIGHEST

THE religious ideas and customs of the dead past are fast being buried. They have ruled the world long enough. Knowledge is advancing in every land. The new Jerusalem of old, with golden streets, lordly mansions and abject angels, governed by a despot whose greatest pleasure seems to have been to listen to the adulation of his serfs whose endless chorus of Glory, Glory, Glory, has vanished like the air castles of imagination built in moments of frenzy. The religion, an outgrowth of that narrow conception of the material and celestial worlds over which a repentant God presided, and the priests who minister at His altars, should join the bats in an old Gothic cathedral, while worshiper and worshiped should unite in a grand procession, and make a tour of observation, and note the change time has wrought. We now have thinking men and women who emblazon the whole world with their eloquence; they stir up a fire in every soul that has lain dormant, and needs only the torch of intelligence to give it the impetus that it needs to warm and nourish into life true Christianity.

Let each man and woman look for the highest; that which will tend to the upliftment of the human family. Then and not until then shall they be doing that which was given them to do. Thanks to the Higher intelligences and to the expanding knowledge; for all these go to show that despots,

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dogmas and priests, with their tyranny, are fast hastening to an end.

With the downfall of superstition, humanity will rise. Then farewell to creeds; and with the destruction of creeds will come peace, harmony and true Christian purposes—every man living nearer to God for being left alone to follow out his own natural instincts, which are God-like; and if the brain is taught aright and each theory sustained by logic, then these teachings will accompany him through life and bloom in fruition when mortality is laid aside and the disenthralled spirit is permitted to revel in the midst of perfect being.

FROM ANOTHER WORLD

I'm a child of the sun, and stars as well,
In other planets I often dwell;
But to this plane I sometimes come,
To visit my other children's home.
I find that all who seek for right,
I can guide by spirit sight.
I can come from other realms
And help to sing progression's song.
I can see why many fail,
Because they live to no avail.
But soon the time will be so near,
That star and sun will be right here;
And you shall see as now I see,

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And hear as I now hear,
And speak in many different tongues
To bring about good cheer.
While I shall journey on
To other worlds and other scenes,
And still help you along.

Be not discouraged—be brave, kind and true. Give to the world thy benediction and send out a blessing and thou shalt be blessed.

There are voices you cannot hear,
There are forms you cannot see;
Our world has numberless doors,
But you do not hold the key.

If you live aright, no death can be sudden, no spot unfavorable for the going forth from the here to the hereafter. One step—all roads meet at the grand central station of soul home.

Beat on then, oh, heart, and yearn for the dying,
Which surely must come to all very soon;
For death is as sweet as the flowers that are blooming,
And we long to inhabit the soul's Inner Room.

Love much and let your soul beam forth
The grandeur of Eternal bliss.
'Twill help the poor heart-broken one,
To leave all wrong and seek for this

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Divinity which God has scattered full and free.
You only have to live aright,
And it surely will be given thee.

MENTAL DEFORMITIES

THERE are many honest persons so mentally constructed that they can hear the groans of the doomed in Hades, but not the welcome tones of gladness with which the departing spirit is greeted in the realm of bliss above by those who have gone before. They cannot help it. This is a mental deformity and they should be taken to God's great hospital for treatment, whereby some great mind could come in contact with, and work upon, the finer inner nature until it could see the angels sitting in the silver lining of the beautiful sunset clouds, playing a greeting song of welcome to ALL who pass on to the morning land.

PAPER

PAPER makes lots of money,
Money makes lots of banks;
Banks make lots of poverty,
Whenever they play their pranks.
Poverty makes lots of rags—
Again rags make the paper;
Paper makes money for the banks,
And the cashier cuts the caper.

THE world needs men of character, not men of society.

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FROM SISTER GRACE TO BROTHER WILL

Yes, I know that you have treasured
All the things I used to wear;
My gloves and all my pictures
Are held sacred by you, dear.
And I sometimes long to kiss you,
When you your vigils keep,
And I often do caress you,
When you're lying fast asleep.
You are faithful to me always,
To your darling little Grace,
And I know there is no other,
Who holds in your heart the place
That I held, and still am holding;
For your love is just the same,
And I'm always Grace to you, Will,
Though I cannot bring you fame.
But I can, and I will guide you,
And I'll help to make you feel
All divine unending power,
Which will o'er your spirit steal;
And I'll always bring you flowers,
Though you may not see them, dear,
Still I know that they will help you,
And your room will have more cheer;
And I'll come and guard your slumbers—
Yes, I'll silent vigil keep,
And my spirit arms protect you—
Ever keep you while you sleep.

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NO MISTAKES

Good-by, brother, I must go now,
Back to realms so pure and bright.
I will help you build a mansion
Over here where there's no night.

THE SOUL SEEKS ITS OWN LEVEL

THE mass of ignorance is fast leveling down. The narrow othodoxy of the past is finishing its part, and with its primitive creeds and beliefs, is fast passing into obsoletism, leaving human intelligence to compass at liberty and the brighter and nobler purposes of God.

Men do as they please. God never sent a man to hell. If a man aspires to the beautiful home, Heaven, he can reach that goal. On the other hand, if he is determined to go to hell, he will find that condition. Both exist. There is a lot of moral sympathy in the universe that is as real, as universal, as resistless as the law of physical gravitation. Every man goes to his own place, regardless of all creeds and dogmas.

ALL things in Nature are right; there are no mistakes—the mistakes are man-made. Do not condemn then, the beautiful, for, as seen by your eyes they may not seem as God made the All to be seen. Educate your inner vision; then look out on the wide expanse and see aright. All is beauty; All is Right; All is powerful; All Godlike.

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A SPIRIT PROPHECY

THERE are more unexpressed things in heaven and earth than are dreamed of by any philosophy. Yea, and even greater progress shall the world make in the years to come. There will be wars between capital and labor; there will be a downfall of monopolies and an uprising of Universal Brotherhood and equality for all mankind. There will be earthquakes and floods, pestilence and famine, devastations innumerable. There will be religious wars; there will be new thoughts, new inventions, new powers, new possessions and new beliefs. Instruments will be constructed which will be so sensitive that an intercommunion of the angel and terrestrial worlds can be effected. The angel world will be heard to speak as your voices are now heard on the graphophone. This intercommunion of the two worlds will prove that there is no death. Theologians tell you the days of miracles are over; so they are indeed; there never was a miracle, nor is there now. Look at how the minds have progressed, but all in accord with the Natural laws which govern them. The telegraph, the telephone, the wireless telegraph, the automobiles, the phonograph, the steamships; all these marvelous things exist to-day; but infinitely greater inventions are fast coming. Minds will evolute on; the child will be master of man. With a fast growing knowledge of our responsibilities and possibilities, the mental atmosphere

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of man will be cleared of its dense ignorance. There will come a full understanding of all that is beautiful and goes to make life a vast wilderness of roses and sweet content. Yea, and I say unto you that all these things shall come to pass.

A MOTHER'S LOVE

A MOTHER'S love is like a benediction after the psalm is sung, and after the last thought dies away in sleep. Sleep, so pure and deep, which brings you nearer to the world where all is love and beauty.

There are no faults that a mother will not forgive; no words so hard and unkind but what a sympathetic ear is turned ever to the one uttering them. A mother's love is a divine inspiration always. She understands all—knows all—is loving when all the world frowns upon her loved one. Such love is a light which is God-given. No one can gainsay that our mothers are not all queens, and shall be nearer the state of perfection where the God dwells in this Spirit Home. If nothing else her love would bring her here and she would wear a crown and be one of God's chosen angels.

THERE never was a mind on earth but what could have its grander themes written upon the Eternal books of Love.

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ALL seeds sown by the pure-minded will grow, and in some other clime go forth to gladden some sad heart.

UNTO all who love right, God's laws are like dew to the flowers. No heart is so black but what some ray of light may penetrate its secret chamber and under the right condition bring forth the brightest rays of truth and purity which make the world better.

DISCOVER the bent of thine inner nature and give it judicious freedom, that it may unfold perfectly. The precept, "Man, know thyself," must never be forgotten, although this is a lesson which is perhaps never fully learned while temporal life lasts. For, ever shifting experiences constantly appeal to some new phase of the complex nature of man and startle into expression some unexpected burst of power, or perhaps a pitiful weakness which surprises none more than its possessor.

INTO each heart some rain must fall to help the rose of character to blossom and give forth to the world the sweet perfume which has grown out of sadness, to show the divine purpose of the Eternal Plan.

NOTHING can be attained by despondency; all is gained by sunshine.

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LOVE AND KINDNESS

If there's any one thing in earth life,
That hearts together will bind,
It's the flower that grows in your being;
It's the love that makes you kind.

You can love as you wish to be loved,
Pure, simple as the dawn of day;
You can be kind, and loving, and tender,
And your friends will come and stay.

Give the milk of human kindness
To some hungry soul to-night;
It will spur him on to nobler things,
It will help him to do right.

And by and by when you go Home,
Where all things will be clear,
The kind deeds you have done on earth,
Will bring you all good cheer.

Love will conquer sin, subdue all ill, illumine the world with light everlasting, universal. Everything good and pure has its foundation in love.

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TAKE A LESSON FROM NATURE

LOOK forth into the great expanse and note what Nature has to offer thee. Canst thou offer her the same in return? Yea, even more! Lift up thy highest thoughts—let them vibrate until the poor hungry souls in the earth's remotest spot shall catch the vibrations and be made better for the grand opportunity of soul union. Be firm; be kind. This beautiful morning is like the benediction after the last hymn is sung and the last prayer is said. It will bring to thee the same amount of blessings as thou shalt give forth to the world.

GO FORTH, O wonderful light, and may thy rays so permeate the universal love, that all may see and learn of thee.

DO NOT fear, though day may follow day,
When darkling clouds their silver linings hide;
We know the sunshine yet will come your way;
No sky remains forever bleak and gray—
God will provide.

AGGRESSION is the mainspring of progression. If there were no friction there could be no light, no heat, no cold, no debates, no spurring on to higher and nobler things, no incentive to do any one thing better than your neighbor.

Therefore *be aggressive;* learn to live for yourself and in thine own strength help others.

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Love much. It will help you, dear heart,
It will help you to expand;
And soul power shall be felt by all
From the beautiful morning land.

If any one can doubt a natural God, let him go forth into the world and look out on the great in all.

You can live in a bandbox and never know that there is any other place; or you can broaden out and live in God's Garden and pick the sweetest flowers that bud and grow. Let us live with the Divine in all, and we will be divinity itself.

Unto thee shall be brought food. Yea, even as the birds of the air live, so shall ye live. Learn to look toward the sun. Learn the lesson of the stars—constancy. Be happy as the brook that goes babbling on its happy way, and lend a hand to all the needy poor who are reaching up for light and gladness.

Souls require no introduction; the recognition is intuitive.

You know not of what you are capable until trials come. Until they come in a form that makes the strong man quail and turns the gentler woman into a heroine.

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HEART-THROBS are like the echoes of the wind. They soon pass, and peace, divine and holy, fills their place.

IF you would have the respect of all—respect yourself and build a temple within your own being so spotless that no wrong can live and thrive within its gates.

NEW thoughts, new possibilities, are at thy command. Be not despondent because thou canst not penetrate the darkness which seems to obscure thy vision; for when the time is ripe, all obstructions shall be removed, and thou shalt see as through a magnifying glass, and all things shall be made plain to thee.

EACH soul has its own influence; each personality leaves a trail of good or bad wherever it goes. Nourish the good. Stamp out the bad. Then will the current of true goodness swell into a great ocean, and all can ride over its billows safely.

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PEACE

MEDITATION

To THEE, O Spirit of Love and Wisdom, we turn this day from out the paths of darkness and distress. From paths of pain and sorrow we would turn our feet to the brighter ways of truth and peace. We would attune our hearts to all that is best and sweetest. We would sing amidst the crying despair the song of truth and righteousness; and thus we would go on, making brighter for all through our efforts both for ourselves and our own.

Wherever there is an aspiring soul, wherever there is a desire for truth or for better conditions, there may the Spirit of Strength walk and be very near to the side of the hungry one.

And may the Power rest near them always and help to assure them of the help from those, who like them are seeking for the best and truest.

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FORTUNE'S WHEEL

THERE is a simple rhyme—'tis true,
And rhymes like these are never nice,
And yet we try and scatter thru
A pinch or two of good advice.
Now listen and perhaps you'll learn
Never to boast of your renown,
For sometimes fortune's wheel may turn
And some go up while you go down.

Another thing which seems to me
(The truth I know you will confess)
That codfish aristocracy
Is but a scaly thing at best.
So those who think they know the most,
And strut around with air profound,
Will find out to their grief some day
That fortune's wheel is turning round.

This world for you and me—my friend,
Hath something more than pounds and pence,
Then let me recommend to you
A pound or two of common sense.
Then for a while lay pride aside,
Speak kind to all and do not frown,
For fortune's wheel is on the turn—
Some may go up while you come down.

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CHEER UP

TO THE DISHEARTENED ONES

UNTO thee will I write, and may my words inspire you on to better and nobler deeds. Do not say "I am unable to combat with this or that," but take hold of the helm and steer your boat into the rough seas of progression, and plow through its waters until you meet some larger vessel which will help you on your way; while you may be the means of helping the smaller boats into peaceful waters.

Launch out—be not afraid; behold I am with you and in time of need will not fail you. You are God's vessel; let all get on board and become enlightened by thy power of progress, that they may sooner reach the port of Truth in safety.

But ever remember that thou art but an atom and can only help with your better teachings and right living to move all in its proper course.

Be courageous; never faint at right-doing; be noble, kind and true, and the fruit of thy labor will ripen in time.

THE more you use your divine armament the stronger it will be.

EVERY good thought is an inspiration to some starving soul. Send them the bread of life through the intelligence that has been given you by the Divine Creator of all good.

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REALITY OF THOUGHT

THE universe is a vast echo-chamber, and it belongs to each individual—yes, his or her very own. Our thoughts and their increase return to us and constitute our heaven or hell.

Thoughts are more real than material things; the latter are used only as channels to carry them to us as transmitters.

In relation to thought, ignorance is not bliss, and wisdom is not folly.

Disliking people is only making a center for the return of our own thoughts. Even the walls of your home echo back the good or the bad thoughts expressed within its structure.

Note—The spirit who wrote the above then penned the following verse, and speaking to one of the family, said that the verse was not original with himself, being one from Omar Khayyam, but wanted to quote it as it had a direct bearing upon the above:

"I sent my soul into the Invisible,
Some story of the after life to tell;
And by and by my soul returned to me and said,
My self was heaven and hell."

You can wear rags if you want to, but diamonds are yours if you command them.

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TAILOR CUTS VALUELESS

NEITHER BEAUTY NOR MONEY

IT is neither man's face nor figure, nor how much he leaves when he passes on, that counts; it is his intellect, his true manhood, his decision for others according to his best judgment, that go forth into the world and appeal to the thinking man and woman.

THE soul's deepest emotions are the divinest thoughts. They permeate the atmosphere. They vibrate through our being, and journey on to God's great ocean of humanity. So are the purest principles implanted where no eye can see them; yet in the sunlight of the correct creative forces, they take root and spring forth into the most intelligent fruitage.

LET every man stand erect. If he leans on another, some day he must fall. Let each one depend upon himself and be a perfect man.

THERE's plenty of room and a good seat in the front row for he whose life is guided by principle.

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A SPRING DAY

To-day has been a benediction on all the week's labors; and how the angel world has enjoyed it, none can tell better than they. The beautiful sky overhead; the sunshine; the etheric energies; the birds; the newly budding branches; the carpets of beautiful green; the babbling brooks; the fresh air; the new life of spring reaching and stretching out its arms for Mother Nature to feed and nourish it into maturity: all speak of God. Yes, all of these are silent messengers of the great universal power of being, through which we hear the voice of the great God within each one of us.

UNIVERSAL LOVE

All nature works in unison,
  Love guiding and controlling.
The seasons, with their gifts,
  On all alike bestowing.
The treasures hid by Mother Earth
  Are free for all earth's seekers;
The harvests of the land and sea
  Lie waiting for the reapers.
The same great love benign,
  That holds the stars in place;
That stores the mighty tree of oak
  In acorn's heart of tiny space;
That keeps the ocean's waves,

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The mountain's base,
In confines ever true,
And gives each part and parcel
In harmony its work to do.

NOTHING is wholly bad. There is good in the lowest of God's creatures. Stamp out the evil and the good will predominate. All can be good; all can be godly.

IT is better to be a king in your own country than a peasant in some foreign land.

SMILES are born of love.

SINCE every soul is a part of the All, its dormant powers must be in keeping with the Source.

LISTEN to the Inner Voice as it points out the Golden Way.

BE so pure, so true, so kind, so helpful, that all who come within the sphere of your influence will be made better by it.

AN AFFIRMATION

SUCCESS is mine. I will succeed:
Nothing can stop this outward need.
Progression has come to stay with me,
Yes, forever and for aye!

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SOMEONE TO LOVE

Someone to love and be kind to;
Someone whose faults you are blind to;
Someone who knows how you're yearning;
Someone whose soul's lesson learning;
Someone who never will slight you;
Someone whose height you may climb to;
Someone who knows your emotions;
Someone whose heart's deep devotion;
Someone who feels for your heart-throbs;
Someone who knows why the heart sobs.
All this you yearn for so truly,
God's great machine will find surely,
Some way to grind out the fine wheat,
In the soul-land where all shall his own meet.

We watch and wait the coming
  Of those we love so well.
We want to feel their tender touch.
  We want to feel the spell
Of the kindness, which will make us
  Sympathetic, kind and true;
And we love the hand that reaches
  For the hand and heart that's true.

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IT IS BETTER SO

And though thy path be thorny,
And thy days are void of cheer,
Thy heart should be the threshold
Of all thou holdest most dear.

And if the sun all glorious
Should never cease to shine,
Thou couldst not enter Heaven's gate
To dwell in peace sublime.

But when the clouds do gather,
And no light comes to stay,
Thy thoughts seem dark and gloomy:
It is a dull, sad day.

But it is better thus to have them
Else couldst thou know so well,
How most to appreciate Heaven above,
If thou hadst known no hell?

Make an endless cable of thy good deeds and never allow it to be broken. When dark clouds seem to settle around thy head and make the heart sad, remember that no life is smooth; that the ones who suffer most make the greatest men and women.

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REMEMBER thy imperfections, for by knowledge of them thou shalt be able to climb the golden stairway to a perfect existence in the life to come.

Do NOT listen to the prattle of the multitude, but rather obey the voice of thine own conscience.

YOUR opinion is not the only one. Respect the opinions of others.

SOME time your eyes shall see the silver lining of
the darkest cloud;
Some time your hearts shall be content, forgetting
all your restless mood;
And knowing everything has worked for good,
The how, and when, and why shall be understood.

NO LOT in life is small enough to stunt a soul. Lowly circumstances are no bar to high thoughts.

EACH day is a present from on high in which one can come a step nearer to the perfect.

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REPUTATION is what your brothers and sisters think of you.

CHARACTER is the value God and the angels put on you and know to be true.

WHEN the perception which has been growing within thee shall have taken full possession, then the Power transcendent and beautiful shall be thine.

LIVE on; to him who does his best, every object is a teacher, and every event an admonition. Every hour presents some new lesson of virtue, some fresh knowledge of truth, and at every examination you will have the joy of finding that you have made some additional conquests of wisdom and nobleness.

MAY it be said of me by those who knew me best, that I always plucked a thistle and planted a flower in its place, wherever a flower would grow.

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If you are master of yourself, you can command nations.

Have a mission in life; don't be a leaner.

A multitude of unsuccessful experiments proves nothing in opposition to a successful one.

Don't look for thistles in your neighbor's yard when you have them growing in your own.

You hope, you resolve, you aspire, you pray,
And think you mount the air on wings,
Beyond the recall of sensual things,
While your feet still cling to the heavy clay.

O purity, simple and clean, come and abide in our hearts; and may thy radiance so go forth, that all may be able to sit beneath thy beams and drink of the glory that thou alone canst give.

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EQUALITY'S WING

FROM A SOCIALIST IN SPIRIT REALMS

WELL, the time has come and the minds are ripe
For a new reform, I say,
And the earth will give from her bounteous store
Enough for the poor alway.

What you need is men with unselfish minds
To control most of God's great plan;
Then Equality's wing will cover the world—
There's enough for child, woman and man.

Then no hunger or cold, privation or want,
Shall submerge your great country with pain
For the God in mankind will never be blind,
And the way shall be pointed and plain.

The land can be tilled and each stomach filled,
When the Socialist Party command;
And the right to speak true is a treasure to you.
So work till the world be beautiful, grand.

Be of good cheer and work with a will,
Until right and equality reign.
The poor will have plenty of money to lend,
While the rich will give over their claim.

So just keep on working and thinking, I say,
Until this great problem be plain;
Send thoughts to your brother that nothing is lost,
And all will be blessed with God's gain.

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THY DUTY

Wouldst thou have kindness? Then be kind.
Wouldst thou have goodness? Then be good.
This golden stairway all may climb,
To reach true heavenly brotherhood.
It is thy duty to send out some thought,
So pure and stainless all may see its Light.
It will vibrate to the earth's remotest spot,
And help some brother or some sister to do right.

BE DETERMINED

You must be determined in this vale of tears, or else some one who has more emotional courage than you will get in his seed of natural force, and all the world will bend and bow to him, while you sit in the silence, alone, wondering why.

Kindness is love at work. More people live out great poems than ever could write one.

You must needs lay your plank high over the stream of censure if you would keep the mire off your feet while passing over.

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MINERALS, OR SUB-SOILS?

WHAT AM I?

WHERE am I? What am I? And what can I know?
Have for centuries muddled bright brains as they
go,
And unanswered I find the great problem to-day.
Individual knowledge will open the way,
To solve and enlighten, and show forth to all,
What great possibilities dwell within call.
You must first examine yourselves as you stand;
Are you metal so precious, or poor drifting sand?
Like a mine you're constructed, and deep you must
probe,
To find out the metal which lies in your road,
For your nature is filled with precious metals so
rare.
Clear away all the rubbish and you will find there
A mine that is hidden, it needs only the light
To make it more radiant to everyone's sight.
These gems are your actions, and beautifully set,
They teach all to learn to forgive and forget.
They make mankind noble, unselfish and grand,
And spread sweet contentment throughout all this
land.

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THE atmosphere is actually alive with thought currents and emanations of various character. Even the most positive mind is subject to receiving some of them. How much more, then, would the sensitive one be helped or encouraged by the wave which might come to them!

Thought currents, like water, seek their own level. So it stands all in hand to throw out the highest, the best and the most loving thoughts that it can attain, so when it re-echoes, it will bring back the kindest and the best to the sender.

TO ATTAIN the greatest success in life, practise self-culture. This does not mean only the culture of the physical, but is principally the training of the best thoughts.

DO NOT stop at trifles; they are only little pebbles in the path of life to stub your toes against, so that you can have stronger soles put on your shoes.

YOU must pick sound apples from the tree. The boys would not stone and club the trees if there was not sound fruit to gather.

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FACTS

Milk-weeds grow by the wayside,
Frogs sing their songs in the night;
Things of earth look queer sometimes,
But bless your heart—they're all right.

Apple trees blossom in the Springtime,
The fruit gets ripe in the Fall;
Water never did run up-hill,
For Nature attends to it all.

You can't grow cherries on peach trees,
Nor grapes on a cucumber vine;
You can't stop the air from vibrating,
To try would be wasting your time.

You can't put old heads on to children,
Nor cause the sun to shine in the night;
For a Power that's Divine has taken its time
To see that all things are done right.

You can't force new ideas into old theological heads,
And expect them to see the Light,
For the tight fences which dead men have built
Have blinded their natural sight.

You're only an atom of the great whole,
You're needed just where you stand;
But the impossible is far beyond your reach—
It is not yours to command.

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For when this world was created,
There were no mistakes in the plan—
Everything has come in its proper place
Without the consent of man.

A Power that is perfect governs it all,
A Power that we cannot descry;
And everything works in its proper niche,
Irrespective of you or I.

MUSIC

Music is the echo of love wafted from some distant hill where Harmony sits enthroned. Its voice, like a strange bird from some far off land, lulls us to sleep and we dream of a land where those we love are waiting to welcome us.

A rose-lipped sea-shell mumuring of the Eternal Sea, where we all shall float on in the beautiful barque, guided by unseen hands to a land of song.

A thing of the soul, vibrating with every heart-throb until it is felt by all who come in touch with its harmonious strain.

Generosity is a sunbeam penetrating into the darkest corners.

You should be thankful that in a future existence each shall occupy his or her own chair.

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BEWARE OF THIN ICE!

Some incredulous ones will say: "If you believe there is a Providence looking out for a chance to save a man, just walk across some thin ice when there is no one in sight. Providence may come to your funeral, but not to your rescue."

You cannot expect a great future if you allow the present to pass idly by.

If you are necessary to the world, you will never starve. Make the world seek for your knowledge.

It is one of the best signs in the world to be tempted. Thus the Devil pays compliment to intellect. Robbers break into palaces, not dug-outs.

FOR YOU

Do not digress, but keep straight on,
The path winds in and out alway,
And you are God's own chosen one,
To help along the world's great play.

A drama in itself it is,
A drama full of life and love.
Just tread the path marked out for you;
The angels shout from Heaven above.

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SOWING AND REAPING

You get what you give in this world of ours—
If you sow seeds of thistles, you cannot pluck
flowers.
If you sow seeds of jealousy, hatred and scorn,
The reaping will bring you many a thorn.
Now, sow as you will, the reaping must come,
For the good and the bad as well;
And your conscience, whether you wake or sleep,
Is either a heaven or hell.
If you have friends that you know are true,
Use them right and they'll cling to you;
But wound their hearts by unkind words,
And they'll seek for a friend more true.
You will have time to think of it
Through years of grief and shame;
And words of kindness you'll wish you had sown
Over and over again.
For the wrong you do will find its place,
Whatever it be, just what you give;
It will come back and meet you face to face,
Just as sure as you live.

All Nature seems to be busy writing her own life for the world to read.

Overcome fear absolutely, and absolutely nothing but God remains.

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THERE ARE NO TO-MORROWS

WAKE UP

COME! wake up, brother, and find that this earth plane is a school of progression; and if you can progress you can never grow old. When a man retires from this school of progression, he courts death. A fellow who quits is a coward, and Nature does not raise her hand in disapprobation, but says calmly, "Amen!" The man who works because it is a pleasure to do so, is a happy being; and when the time comes to pass on, he needs no preparation—no tickets—he is ready to go into the next life without fear and with a buoyant step, for he has done his best and learned some of the progressive lessons that help him on.

Mental work is a great stimulation to bodily vigor. The most beautiful expression of true character in man or woman is bringing your good thoughts close to your fellow-beings and working them out like nuggets of gold; then coin them into words that they may comfort all within the sound of your voice.

Live in the present; there are no clouds in yesterday's sky.

There are no to-morrows. The day is yours. Improve the present. You never have a lesson given you until you are ready to receive it. You progress just as fast as Dame Nature sees fit and no faster. So be content with the present, making life complete with the enjoyment of to-day.

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Be grateful for the past and fill every life with hope as you go out to meet the world each day.

Do not grow old; live as though you would live always, and when the time comes, die game, and pass into the next life with a determination to live always.

FOR THE GRUNTERS

THERE'S too much borrowed trouble
In your world of strife,
And those who borrow are still in debt
When they leave earthly life.

And there's too much imagination
Indulged in by idle men;
They cause every one unhappiness,
By their whys and hows and when.

And there's the busy toiler,
Striving to throw some light,
On his brother's path toward duty,
And he works with all his might.

He does not borrow trouble
Which he never can repay,
Nor imagine bubbles in the air,
Which will never come his way.

If all would work hard with hand or pen,
Less room for trouble they'd see;
For the mind would perform its duty
In this world for you and me.

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UNCONSCIOUS BUILDING

There never was a sterner truth
  Brought to this bright world's view,
Than that the Devil finds some work
  For idle hands to do.

If all will work with mind and might,
  They will have less time to complain;
So do your duty toward all mankind,
  And find life worth living again.

UNCOMMON SENSE

THERE are people in the world who imagine that they have accumulated an extra stock of it; and they are right. The wise man winds up the clock of time and lets the clock do the rest.

Time is ever moving on; no stop over; no influence of great minds can stop the mighty pulsation of time. You build temples for your inmost soul to inhabit, but you know not when you do it, for time is ever weaving its silken web, strong and sure, into a beautiful life or an uncommon sense soul loss.

Look well at the old timepiece; keep it wound up so that it will serve you faithfully and never lose any time. Each act; each deed; each thought; each laugh; each tear—has its own place in the great universal book of records which is kept for your inheritance. Be good!

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UNSATISFIED

Mysterious self that all behold,
We watch the baby buds unfold,
And wonder in our poor vain way,
If on some distant future day,
  We all shall know.

The why and how this world began;
If God is God, and man is man;
Then tell me right so I may see
Through all this wondrous mystery—
  So I may know.

All things thou dost permeate,
Throughout the Church, throughout the State;
Has always been about the same—
Excepting through progression's flame
  We have grown wise.

Mysterious force without a name,
And always hast thou been the same,
Thou hast appealed to men—
Creation's mighty sovereign.
  Developing thought.

We see how men for thee have yearned;
Thy mighty powers have tried to learn;
And still of all, of Nature's art
I know of all thou art a part;
But I am still unsatisfied,
  And would know more.

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GROWTH

Every day is a poem to each weary heart,
So try and take life as you find it;
Use the soil of your soul in God's great field,
For the use which your God has assigned it.
The flowers may grow in the vilest of swamps,
The roses may bloom in the heather;
And the pureness of life which you plant in the world,
Will grow on forever and ever.
There are some hungry hearts that are waiting to-day,
For a kind word or a smile they can treasure;
And by lifting the load of your friend on the way,
My boy, you'll be blessed forever.

Enter into the future with brave hearts and a strong determination that all for which you most yearn may be yours; and in time your most sincere prayer shall be answered, and that for which you have yearned shall be your inheritance.

Do not repine but live sublime. The whole world is before you.

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CULTIVATE CHEERFULNESS

An anxious, restless temper that runs to meet care on its way, that regrets lost opportunities too much, that is over pains-taking in contrivance for happiness, is pursuing a foolish course. If you cannot be happy in one way, be happy in another, and this faculty of disposition wants but little encouragement to brighten all the hours of your life.

Many people run after happiness like an absent-minded man hunting for his hat when he has it upon his own head. Look for happiness in your own divine being. It is waiting to be found and you had better take an inventory of yourself; then take a long lease in your own life's happiness.

Hell is a condition. Conditions never kill any one. The true facts of all wrong-doing are what count against the real man or woman. Therefore live beauty, love, peace, hope and power, and all shalt thou inherit.

Grandeur of character is born of those who live the most soulful lives.

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DON'T GATHER THORNS

UNDERSTAND SELF

To UNDERSTAND the great problem of life, you must first become acquainted with yourselves. You are not yet ready for the great universal unfoldment which is strewn all along your pathway. You often gather thorns while the beautiful roses fade and die without ever being held in the tender embrace of some poor hungry soul who has spent his or her life in looking for this beautiful rose, and, when it was obtainable, have crushed it by some unkind thought or word; and in this way only gathered the thorns and let the sweet flower die because you did not know enough to nourish it by love and kindness into fruition.

Try to live so as to understand self first; then you can command nations.

I WILL

IF you say "I will," you will always succeed;
But if you say "no," there will be no need.
For we love to be pushed—aggression is gain;
And if you say "yes," it will not be the same.
Just say that "I can"; just say that "I will";
And leave *no* out—it stands for naught still.

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AS YOU GROW OLD

Isn't it queer how your ideals change,
As year by year you older grow?
And so you find to your sorrow oft,
The more you know—the less you know.

You are taught to do right as your mothers thought,
And into your minds good seeds did sow;
But when you grow up and think for yourselves,
The more you know—the less you know.

And as you go down the hill of life,
And your footsteps falter and tremble so,
You would ne'er be content if we never should die,
For the longer you live, the less you know.

Unto the man or woman who gives to all the world, love, kindness and charity in all things, yea, unto such a one all glory, all spiritual endowments, shall be their inheritance.

Your way may look like mountains if you have them in your mind.

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SUPPLICATION

Dear George, don't go where I can't go,
And say it's all right for you, you know,
Because men have their "wild oats" to sow;
There is no more excuse for you to be low,
Than it is for me—so I tell you so.

And it hurts me somehow when you say:
"Good-by, little wife, I'll be back in a day;
I would take you too, but the men would laugh,
And twit me of bringing my better-half;
So you stay at home, my dear, till I come—
I'm sure you are better all safe at home."

So don't tell me these things—just let me be
A beacon-light whereby you may see
The sin of going where I can't go,
And mingling with those who are too low
In your opinion for me to meet;
I know you want to protect me, Sweet,
But I shall feel better and be more serene,
If your heart is untainted by things unclean.

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You cannot reform the world in a minute. It has taken ages to bring it up to its present state of true thought. When a seed is once planted, it is bound to grow and fill its own place in the world and bring forth its seed, which will also grow; and so on until all lands shall be impregnated with this new reform wave. Where there is life it is sure to be perpetual. There is no death.

Man does not yet know how much his ill-formed habits contribute to create human suffering and misery to those who are sensitive and born under planetary conditions which he knows not of. To be made rational he must be trained in principles and practices so different, that he will always be kind and charitable to his own species, and, so far as is consistent with the progress and well-being of the human race, to all that have conscious life.

Love is never immoral; it is the mother of all virtues.

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NATURAL Law, or "Divine Law," as some call it, governs all things, from the crudest physical expression up to the finest of spiritual manifestations.

YOU may die when you are fifty; but the kind deeds you have done will live forever.

UNTO all who live right, God's laws are like dew to the flowers. No heart is so black but what some ray of light may penetrate its secret chamber, and under the right conditions, bring forth the brightest rays of truth and purity which make the world better.

A LOVING, tranquil spirit, not easily disturbed by trifling interruptions, is better than riches; adversity is prosperity to such a soul.

IT is the small joys and hopes of life that refresh the soul, stimulate the warm, kind and gentle impulses of the heart, and drive from the mind the phantom of despair.

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If your tape-line is inaccurate, don't use it in measuring up other people.

Do you like to hear your neighbors grumble? If not, then don't let them hear your groans.

"As a man thinketh, so is he." This is one of the truest things ever written. It is evident that the spirit is responsible for its bodily indulgence, its actions, words or deeds; and whatever tends to degrade or defile the body must of necessity be bad for the soul.

People with vivid imaginations should be corralled, so their horns will not puncture their neighbors.

The brightest blossoms often take root in the muddy waters of uncleanliness.

The toad hops farthest when he scents danger behind him.

If you have any criticism to make, use it on yourself first, then you will be content to leave others alone. Be true to yourself; find out just how much intellectual conceit you have become master of.

If you are wise you will let other people make the dishes to carry their own trouble.

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If you wait until the chestnut-burr is wide open, you can then pick out the nuts without getting your fingers pricked.

Men, like hogs, prefer to root where the dirt is softest. Rocks hurt their feelings.

Out of the blackest dirt has come the sweetest flowers; out of true Christianity has come the divinest principles. So may it be with you. Upon the refuse of your dead selves can you climb to loftier heights.

If you begin by lifting a half pound, in the future you can lift half a ton.

Don't waste your time in placing fence posts as the markers of the limitations of man and nature, for the great wave of eternal progress will rise, and, in years that are yet unborn, submerge them.

Time's not so precious but that you'll succeed
In all that you do for the world's greatest need.

Rocky paths in the material, ultimately lead you to an understanding and recognition of things spiritual.

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THE GOD IN ALL

Look through Nature; on to Nature's God.
The vault of blue above; below, the bright green sod;
And all the jets that give the rainbow shading,
Teach us that mind and soul are all pervading.
The ebb and flow of tides, the mighty marches of worlds
Round worlds, each in their certain courses,
Thou that deign the Universe o'er arches,
That all things seen obey one Central Force.

Love is the emblem of Eternity; it confounds all notion of time; it effaces all memory of a beginning, all fear of an end.

You should use and cultivate every force which you possess to bring out, unfold, and express each divine possibility which is yours by birthright, to the end that you may gain the deepest, grandest identity with all purity and power.

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TIME

Lots of time for lots of things,
Tho someone said that time has wings;
Time to give, and time to take,
Something sweet for friendship's sake;
Time to whisper words of love,
Time to think of worlds above;
Time for angel friends to come,
Bringing gladness to your home;
But there is no time to spare
For unkindness anywhere.

THE DIVINE GATEWAY

Thru the intelligence and soul power of man and woman has come the best you have in life. The finest thoughts, the best literature, the most soul-thrilling music, the great mechanical and electrical inventions of the hour, the most noble expressions of the Power called Divine—yea, all of these, have come thru man and woman only, and not from some external "jealous God" which had its birth in the brains of primitive men now centuries dead. This being true, you must look to the same gateway for all new expressions of eternal truth, love, and justice. Therefore, think, be sensible, and worship the known sources of all you have that is Divine.

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THE sun behind a cloud may hide,
But it will soon come peeping
To see what progress you have made
In the great field of reaping.

LIFE is a sacred privilege. Do not let the golden moments roll idly by. To work simply to accumulate money or worldly fame is a relic of barbaric times. Let the nobler impulses of the soul have full sway. Work with all the intensity of your soul to accomplish some task which, in its fruition, will bless the world and help make it purer, happier, and sweeter. Have a mission in life; do not come and go as an ordinary man. Live high above the petty whims of self, and be of value to the world.

IF you smell of the pepper-box you must expect to sneeze.

WHEN you understand more about yourselves you will then know more about God.

ALL true progress is the result of an eternal struggle.

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CHANGE

THEOLOGIANS usually know more of what God did two thousand years ago than what He is trying to do to-day.

WILL-POWER is like a razor-edged sword, with which you can carve out of the unexpressed better conditions of body, mind, and soul, than you now possess.

DRIVE the plow of truth
  Deep thru the fields of thought,
And make ready for the coming
  Of great deeds soon to be wrought.
Knowledge is the lever to use,
  Aggressive service is the power,
That will free the enslaved masses
  From the despots of the hour.

ETERNAL CHANGE

EVERYTHING in the known universe
  Is moving night and day.
There are no stops in Nature.
  She's on the move alway.

Each year the earth moves round the sun
  As it rushes on thru space.
It does not stop, but goes right on,
  Just in its proper place.

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The earth revolves at constant speed,
Giving you day and night.
It never stopped, as the Bible says,
For Nature does things right.

The weather and the seasons change,
In accordance with the plan.
There are no stops in Nature.
She moves in spite of man.

Time is ever on the move.
'Tis so with every atom, too,
From the rocks that make the mountains
To the drop of tiny dew.

The life that's in the soil to-day
Nature changes into grain,
Which in time is changed into blood
To sustain your bodies and brain.

And the refuse from your bodies,
Filthy tho it may be,
Will enrich the land for greater crops.
A perpetual change, you see.

The blood and bones of every man
That walks on the earth to-day
Have come from the elements of the earth,
Transformed in Nature's way.

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CHANGE

Everything you see before you,
  Whether houses, books, or clay,
Is slowly but surely changing—
  Rotting, wearing, or rusting away.

It is change, change, change ever,
  No matter where you look—
From the shining stars above you,
  To the moss by the babbling brook.

And your soul is ever on the change.
  It, too, moves with the rest,
Either down the hill of misery,
  Or higher toward the blessed.

But this Eternal Change is not by chance—
  Filled up with many flaws.
No. Each thing moves in its proper course,
  In harmony with Natural laws.

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THE LOOM OF LIFE

Little by little the loom of life
  Weaves into one great span,
A life that is full of hope and love,
  Or despair for every man.

Little by little the threads are spun,
  Unconscious how they lay;
Little by little your deeds are done,
  Which are wove in your lives to stay.

So lay the threads and weave them tight,
  And the warp weave in with care,
And you'll get the best that is pure and strong,
  So it will hold your good deeds there.

Then all the world shall admire its strength,
  And the thought shall go out alway,
That all shall be helped by your weaving in life,
  To walk in the better way.

Where there is Hope there is a soul near God!

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